



Homeless Vets Have High Rates of HIV and Hepatitis B and C

The prevalence of each virus is up to three times higher among homeless versus non-homeless veterans.

April 19, 2017

Homeless veterans have up to three times higher rates of HIV and hepatitis B and C viruses (HBV/HCV) compared with non-homeless vets, aidsmap reports.

Publishing their findings in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, researchers analyzed data from the VA Corporate Data Warehouse, classifying as homeless those vets who had at least one visit to a VA homelessness service center; they classified the remaining veterans as non-homeless. In 2015, this amounted to 243,000 homeless veterans and 5.425 million non-homeless veterans.

Respectively, the homeless and non-homeless vets were: an average age of 50 and 61; 39 percent and 15 percent Black; 46 percent and 67 percent white; and 11 percent and 8 percent female.

The respective testing rates for the homeless and non-homeless vets were: 64 percent and 37 percent for HIV; 78 percent and 60 percent for hep C; and 53 percent and 28 percent for hep B.

The respective prevalence rates for the three viruses among those tested for them was: 2.3 percent and 1.5 percent for HIV; 15.3 percent and 4.5 percent for hep C; and 1.8 percent and 1.3 percent for hep B.

The respective overall prevalence rates for each of the viruses was: 1.5 percent and 0.44 percent for HIV; 12.1 percent and 2.7 percent for hep C; and 0.99 percent and 0.44 percent for hep B.

To read the study abstract, [click here](#).

To read the aidsmap article, [click here](#).